

# PRACTICE

Building Character Through Soccer



## Integrity:

*Adherence to moral and ethical principles, honesty*  
*Synonyms: incorruptibility, honorable, virtue*

## Integrity Story

Do the right thing, even when it's hard

Sometimes, doing the right thing is hard. Argentine referee German Delfino experienced this recently, when he made a courageous decision for what he felt was right, even though it made a lot of people angry.

During a match on April 7, 2015 between Velez Sarsfield and Arsenal (the 8<sup>th</sup> match of the season in the Argentine soccer championship), Delfino booked an Arsenal defender for a handball in the penalty area, and awarded a penalty kick to Velez Sarsfield. When the defender protested the call, he was given a second yellow and sent off.

As they were lining up for the penalty kick, one of the linesman saw a video replay which clearly showed referee Delfino had made the wrong call. It was actually the striker from the home team who had handled the ball. The linesman informed referee Delfino, who then reversed his call, let the defender back on the pitch, and gave a yellow to the home team striker. As you can imagine, Velez Sarsfield and all their fans went crazy.

You can [watch this happen here](#).

Sometimes, acting with integrity can make you unpopular. After the match, Delfino defended his decision, saying that while it was difficult to act with integrity, "I am going home in peace, knowing I did the right thing."



